

Remarks

The Office Action dated February 7, 2008 noted the following: claims 1 and 4-8 stand objected to due to informalities; and claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Pollard* (U.S. Patent No. 7,082,218).

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4-8 to change the terms “colour” and “realise” respectively to “color” and “realize” in accordance with American English. Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s attention to the claim language.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 102 rejections because the cited portions of the ‘218 reference do not provide correspondence to the claim limitations as suggested in the Office Action. For example, referring to claim 1 and/or claim 7, the ‘218 reference does not disclose separating individual color signal channels into first and second components, applying a gain factor to a separated color signal channel component, and recombining the separated components. The ‘218 reference is directed to still image processing for digital photographs taken with a camera having a viewfinder 90 (*see, e.g.*, cited FIG. 6). The cited portions of the ‘218 reference at columns 3 and 4 are directed to separating an entire image into high and low frequency portions, and applying color correction to each separate portion using “combinations of values from different colour planes” (*see* column 3:63-66 and, *e.g.*, cited FIG. 11). In this regard, the ‘218 patent operates upon entire high and low frequency portions of an image, and does not involve the processing of “an incident color channel signal” by subdividing the channel “into a first and second signal component” as in claim 1.

The cited portions of the ‘218 reference also fail to mention any gain factor or disclose applying a gain factor as suggested in the Office Action. It appears that the “color correction factors G” cited in the Office Action (column 11:5-40) refer to the color green (G) for a red, green and blue (RGB) approach. Applicant has further reviewed the ‘218 reference and cannot ascertain mention of any gain factor.

Applicant further traverses the rejection of claim 5 because the Office Action has misinterpreted the more particular gain-factor limitations, and because the cited portions of the ‘218 reference do not disclose applying a gain factor that is inversely proportional to the contribution of a color channel to the total luminescence of a color matrix display.

Referring to page 6 of the Office Action, the rejection of claim 5 is based upon an assertion that the ‘218 reference discloses a “gain factor that is inversely relationship to the luminance

of the color display 90.” Applicant notes that the claim limitations are directed to a gain factor, for a particular color channel, that is inversely proportional to the contribution that the particular color channel makes to the total luminance of a color matrix display. That is, the inverse proportionality asserted in the Office Action is to the luminance of a display and not to the contribution of a particular color channel. The cited noise factor and combination of corrected low and high frequency images at column 4, lines 9-26 do not appear relevant to the limitations in claim 5 as no mention is made of any gain factor and there is no discussion as to how the indicated transformation (without amplification or mixing of noise) has any relationship to luminance.

In view of the above, the still-image processing approaches in the ‘218 reference involving separate high and low frequency portions of an image do not provide correspondence to the claimed invention, and specifically to claim limitations directed to processing an incident color signal channel. Moreover, the ‘218 reference does not disclose the claimed gain factor, or the use of a gain factor with a color channel that is inversely proportional to the contribution of the color channel to the total luminance of a display.

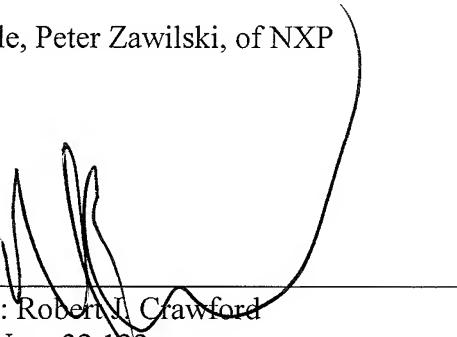
Applicant has added new claims 9-12. Support for these limitations may be found, for example, at paragraphs 0032 – 0034. These new claims are also allowable over the cited ‘218 reference for reasons including those discussed above, and further because the ‘218 reference does not disclose the claimed gain factor application approaches, including those directed to application of a gain factor based upon total luminescence contribution.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that each of the rejections has been overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the agent overseeing the application file, Peter Zawilska, of NXP Corporation at (408) 474-9063.

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